HISTORY OF **THE WORLD MOVEMENT FOR DEMOCRACY**

1999

The **World Movement for Democracy** is launched by over 400 democrats in New Delhi, India. In the keynote address, Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen of India reaffirms the universality of democracy: "The value of democracy includes its *intrinsic* importance in human life, its *instrumental role* in generating political incentives, and its *constructive function* in the formation of values."

2000

Held in **Sao Paulo, Brazil, the Second Global Assembly** presents the first **Democracy Courage Tributes** awards—given to highlight some of the most courageous work being pursued in the name of democracy.

2004

Sub-Saharan African participants in the World Movement launch the **African Democracy Forum (ADF)**. The ADF is a platform for democracy movements throughout Africa to coordinate policy initiatives and advocacy for democratic reforms.

Young activists form the Network of Young Democracy Activists—later renamed the **World Youth Movement for Democracy (WYMD)**—to develop sustainable democracy and human rights movements by empowering a younger generation in democracy promotion activities.

As the World Movement for Democracy convenes for the **Third Global Assembly in Durban, South Africa**, the African Democracy Forum celebrates expanding its network across the continent with over 200 members.

2006

At the **Fourth Global Assembly in Istanbul, Turkey**, Former Prime Minister of Canada Kim Campbell speaks out against authoritarian claims that democracy movements are trying to subvert governments: "We are simply trying to share what we know about how to translate the dream of democracy into the nuts-and-bolts organizational and technical capacity that keeps that dream alive."

2007

World Movement for Democracy
DEFENDING CIVIL SOCIETY

The **"Defending Civil Society"** initiative, in partnership with the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law, responds to the increasingly restrictive legal environments for civil society. In support of the initiative, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a leader of the South African anti-Apartheid movement, says: "Civil society space around the world continues to shrink. We thus need to get together and demonstrate the power of our collective actions once again."

2008

At the **Fifth Global Assembly in Kyiv, Ukraine**, Maina Kiai of Kenya underscores that "[we] must never forget that democracy is about people. It is about shifting power from leaders to the people themselves."

More than 150 World Movement participants representing 86 organizations establish the **Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy (REDLAD)**, as the ramifications of the 2008 Financial Crisis sweep through the region.

2010

Under the theme of "Solidarity Across Cultures: Working Together for Democracy," the **Sixth Global Assembly in Jakarta, Indonesia** highlights how democracy's universal principles can unite people of different religious, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds.

The African Democracy Forum (ADF) launches a campaign pressuring governments to ratify the **African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance**—a first step to hold governments accountable on their promises of democratic and electoral reform.

2011

REDLAD successfully advocates for the passage of the **Organization of American States (OAS) Resolution on Freedom of Association and Assembly** to strengthen the right of citizens to assemble in the region.

2012

As the World Movement convenes for the **Seventh Global Assembly in Lima, Peru**, the World Youth Movement for Democracy (WYMD) establishes the **Hurford Youth Fellowship Program** to elevate youth perspectives in the democracy movement.

Additionally, the World Movement launches the **Civic Space Initiative** to support civil society activists facing restrictions on freedoms.

2013

Amidst successful movements for democratic change across Asia—including numerous grassroots campaigns for workers' rights and anti-corruption protests in India and China—the **Asia Democracy Network (ADN)** officially launches in October 2013 with support from the World Movement.

2015

The Steering Committee of the World Movement for Democracy issues **"A Call for Democratic Renewal,"**—a roadmap for the Movement's activities in the upcoming years. Its text outlines the challenges facing civil society in the 21st century, but also highlights that "what is noteworthy about democracy over the last troubled decade is not its fragility, but its often unappreciated resilience."

Building upon this statement's recommendations, the World Movement addresses the increasingly hostile environment for democracy activists with the **Set Them Free** campaign, launched in May 2015, to build international solidarity for democrats imprisoned on politically motivated charges.

2016

The World Movement debuts an interactive infographic on the "**Right to Access Resources,**" which describes repressive legal measures that limit the ability of organizations to exist freely, highlights international laws guaranteeing this right, and suggests strategies for activists to combat these oppressive measures.

The **African Movement for Democracy (AMD)** launches in Yaounde, Cameroon to strengthen cooperation between civil society and political leaders.

2018

In an effort to enable emerging leaders from civil society, government, and the private sector to incubate new ideas and respond to the public's needs collectively, the World Movement for Democracy, in partnership with the Center for International Private Enterprise, launches an initiative with the **Ouagadougou Declaration** to enhance collaboration amongst these three sectors.

At the **Ninth Global Assembly in Dakar, Senegal**, journalist Maria Ressa of the Philippines addresses disinformation campaigns and the challenges they pose to democratic societies: "If you don't know what to believe, then the person with the loudest megaphone wins… but as more people become aware, and as civil society, journalists, and academics begin to work together… then we have a chance for a solution."

2019

As the World Movement celebrates its **20th Anniversary**, it is certain that whatever future challenges societies will face, a strong civil society will be essential. In the coming years, the World Movement will support democrats to not just push back, but also regain lost ground.

WORLD MOVEMENT FOR DEMOCRACY